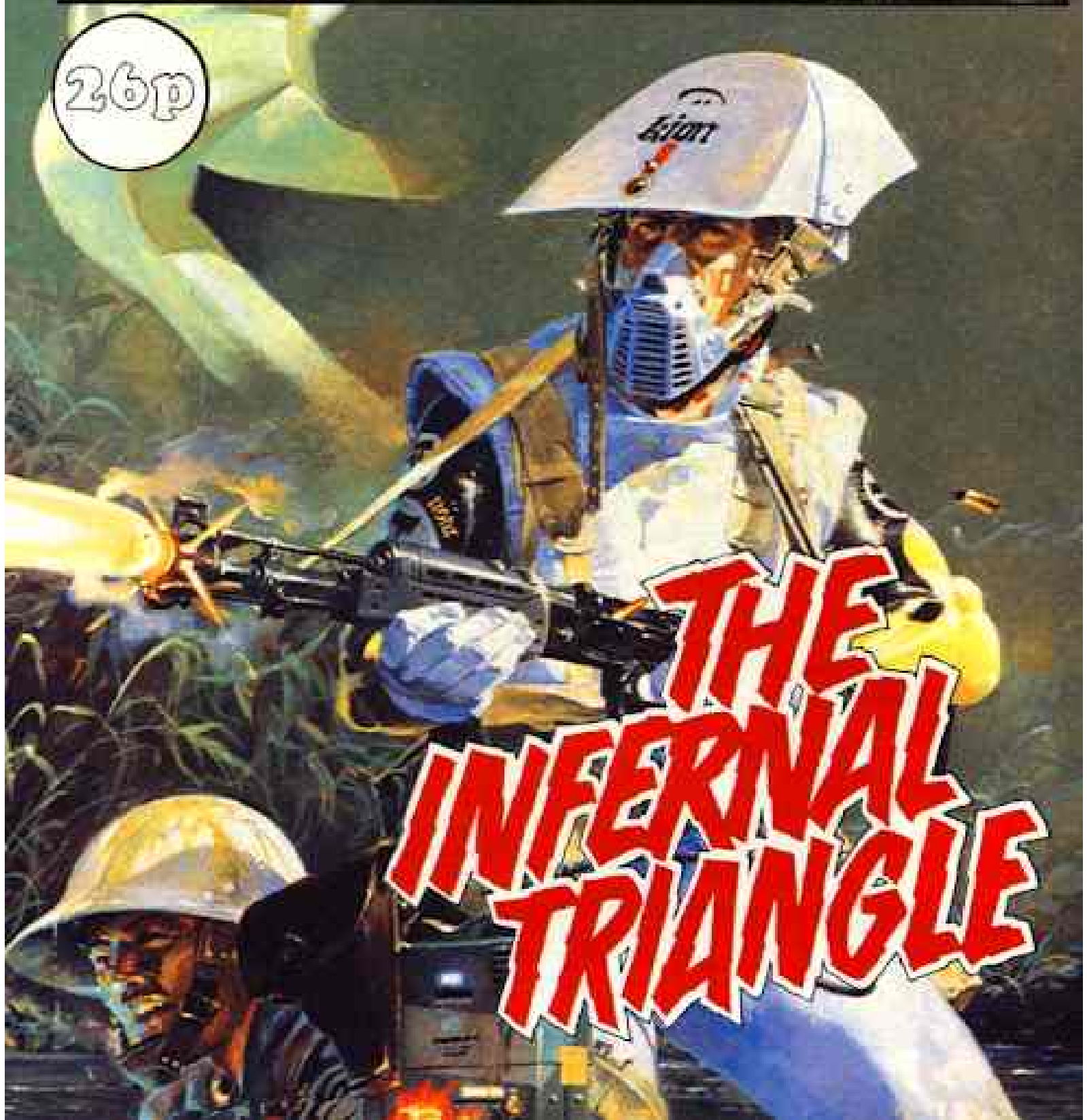


STARBLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No. 188

26p

THE INFERNAL TRIANGLE



**DON'T FORGET THIS
MONTH'S *OTHER***



On sale at your newsagent's *NOW!*

THE INFERNAL TRIANGLE

IN ANOTHER TIME, ON ANOTHER PLANET
CELEBRATIONS FOR THE EMPEROR'S BIRTHDAY WERE
TAKING PLACE. COLONIA, AS THE WORLD WAS
KNOWN, HAD REACHED THE YEAR 1308 OF IMPERIAL
REIGN.

HAIL THE
EMPEROR!

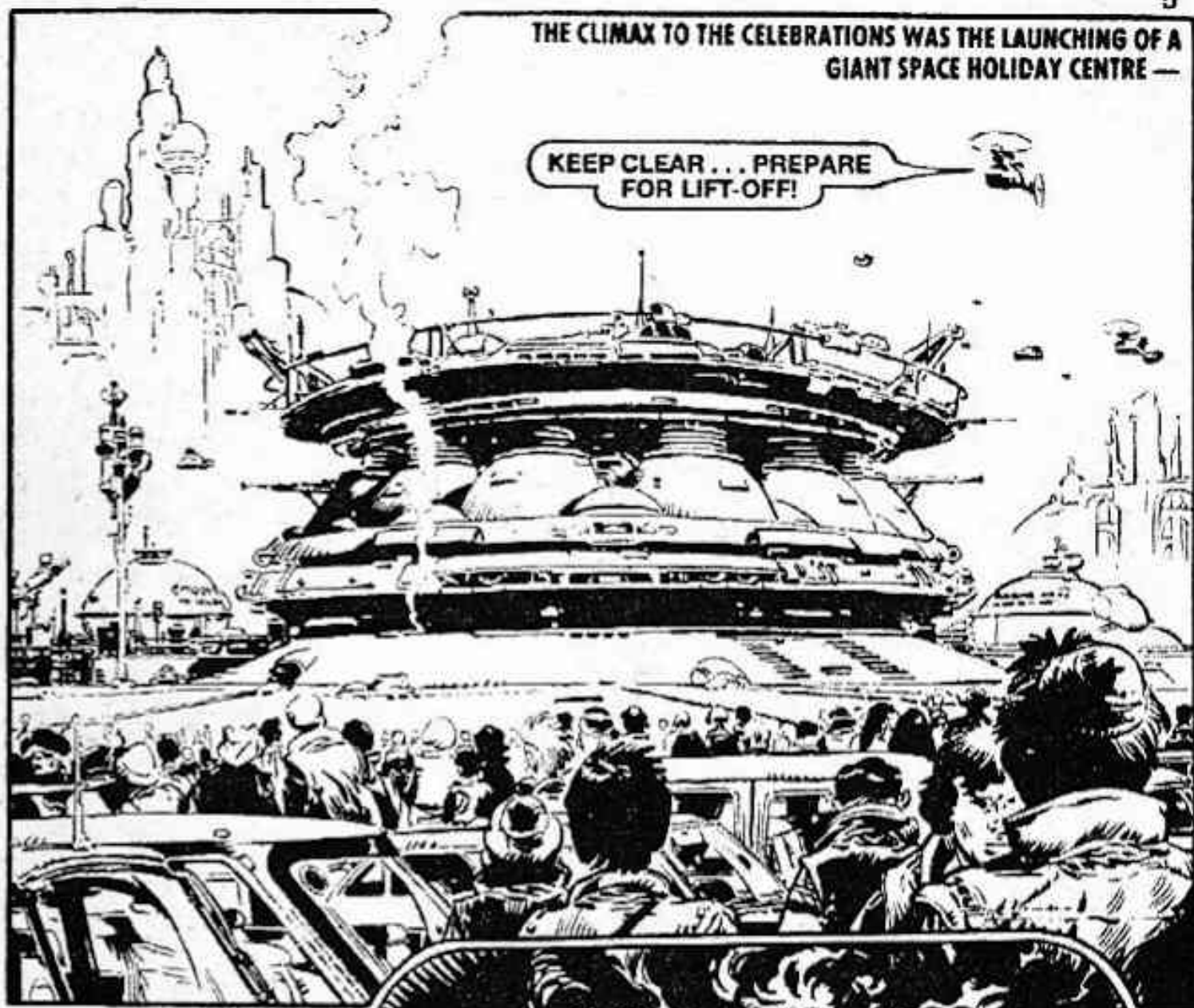
THE SERVICE OF DEDICATION WAS TRANSMITTED BY GIANT HOLOGRAPH SCREENS TO PACKED STADIUMS THROUGHOUT THE PLANET.

... MOST GLORIOUS
EMPEROR, DEFENDER OF THE
PEOPLE ...



THE CLIMAX TO THE CELEBRATIONS WAS THE LAUNCHING OF A
GIANT SPACE HOLIDAY CENTRE —

KEEP CLEAR... PREPARE
FOR LIFT-OFF!



BUT AS THE MIGHTY JETS
IGNITED, A BALL OF FLAME
ENVELOPED THE CENTRE.



COLONIA'S MINISTERS CONVENED AN
EMERGENCY MEETING —



AS YOU WILL RECALL,
CELEBRATIONS IN 1304 AND
1306 WERE MARRED BY
EXPLOSIONS. WE KNOW
THEY WERE THE WORK OF
TERRORISTS FROM THE
PLANETS HOLCI AND
MONTA. WE MUST ACT
AGAINST THEM.

SANCTIONS?

NAY . . . WAR! ELIMINATE
THIS EVIL ONCE AND FOR
ALL!



THEN WAR IT IS! THOSE EVIL
PEOPLE OF HOLCI AND
MONTA WILL BE TAUGHT A
LESSON. MEANWHILE, SEE THAT
ALL ALIENS ON COLONIA ARE
TREATED AS ENEMIES.



A NEW PLATFORM ... THIS TIME A WAR PLATFORM ...
WAS BUILT AND HEAVILY GUARDED BY HOV-TROOPS.



ON COLONIA, TENSIONS WERE HIGH. TRADERS FROM HOLCI AND MONTA WERE UNDER THREAT.

THESE FOREIGNERS HAVE BEEN ROBBING US FOR YEARS... IT'S TIME WE EVENED THE SCORE.

YES... KILL THE SCUM!

DRIVE THEM OUT!



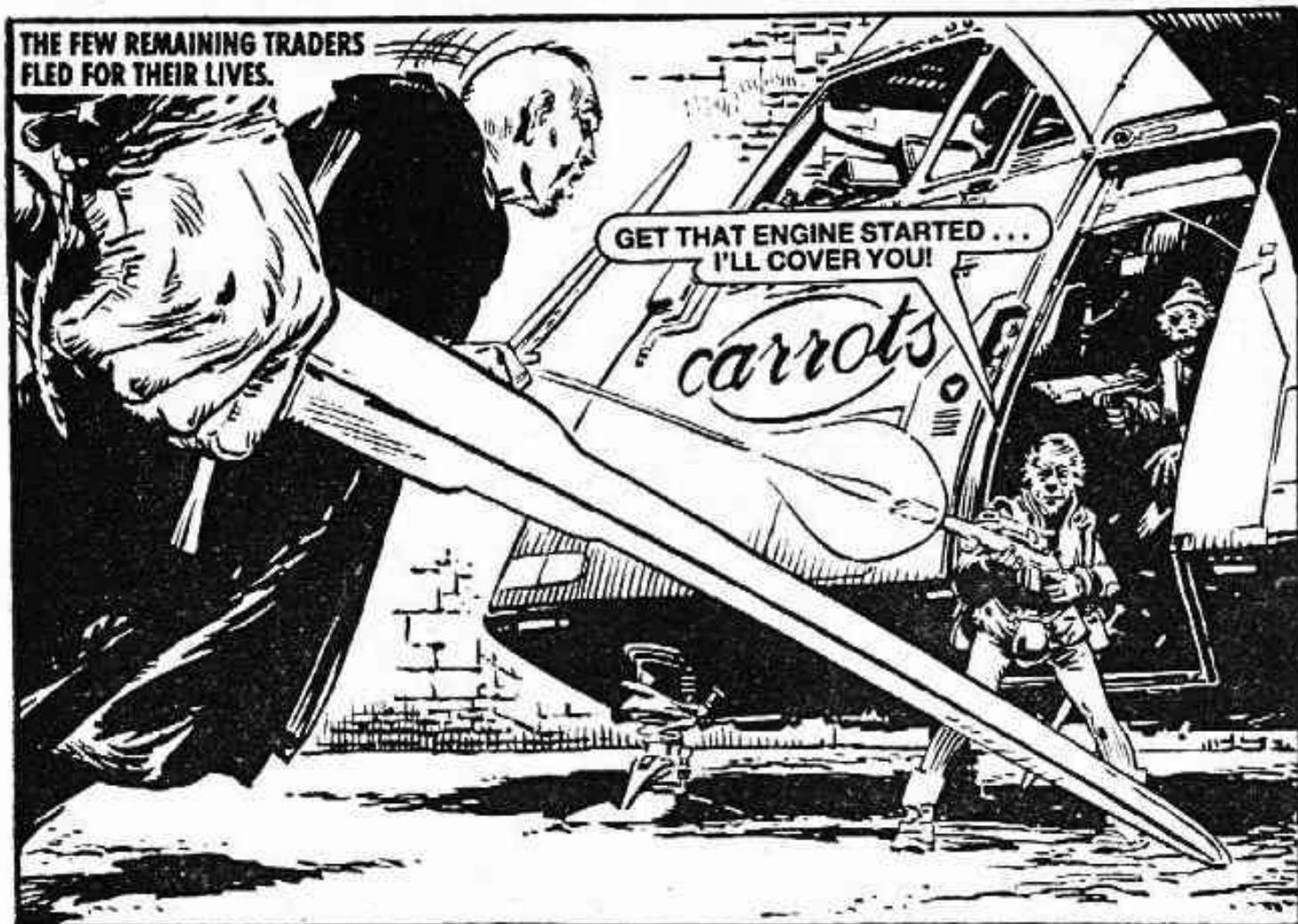
KILLINGS AND ACTS OF BRUTALITY
SWEEPED THE ONCE PEACEFUL COLONIA.

GOT YOU ... SOME ARE
TRYING TO ESCAPE!
FOLLOW THEM.



THE FEW REMAINING TRADERS
FLED FOR THEIR LIVES.

GET THAT ENGINE STARTED ...
I'LL COVER YOU!



FAR AWAY IN SPACE, CHIEF ENGINEER JOHN NEWTON WAS WORKING ON THE DEEP SPACE END OF THE PLATFORM PROJECT.

STATUS REPORT
ON PLATFORM.

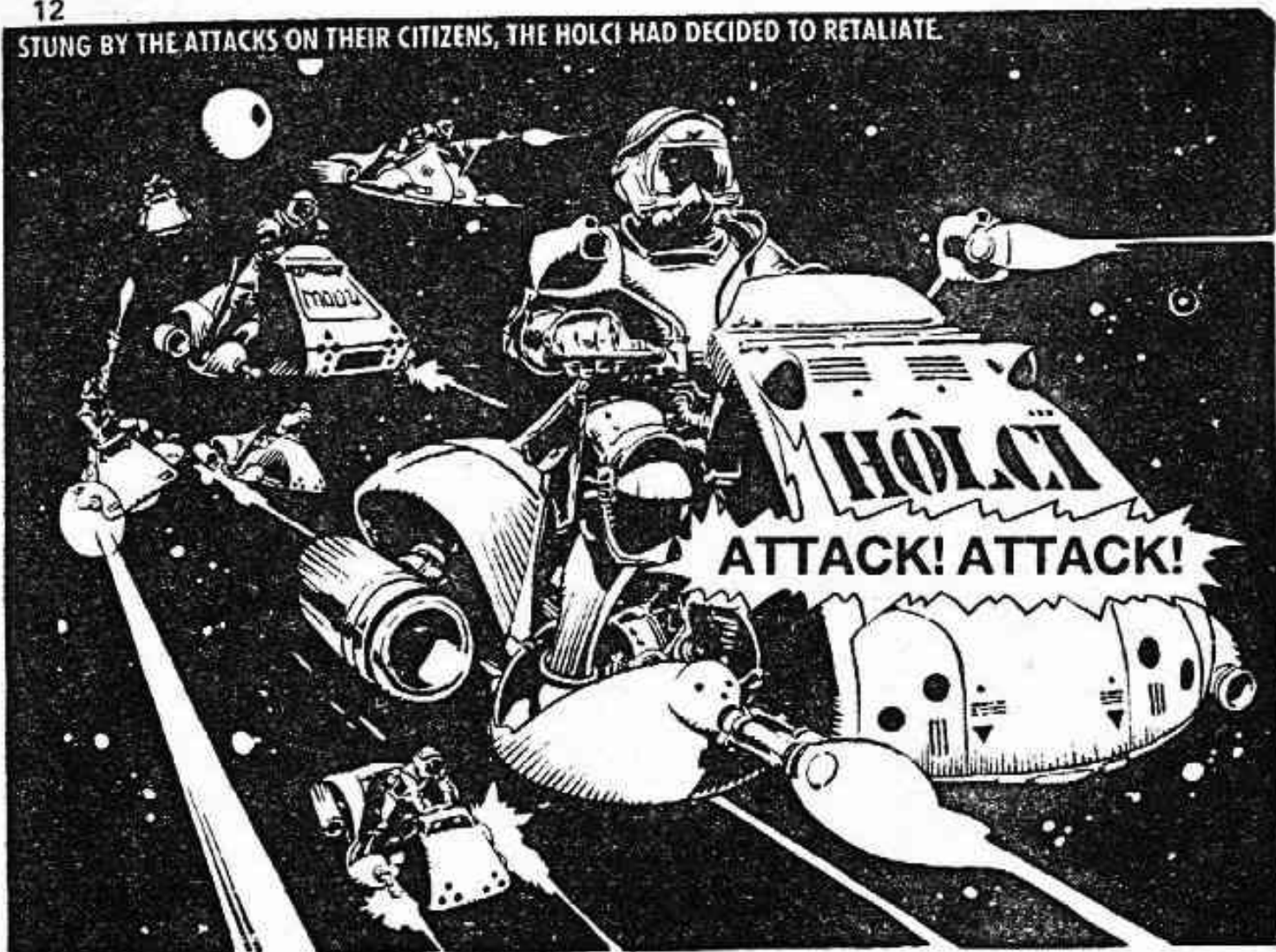
SECTION AZ 42 IS
COMPLETE ... HOLD IT ... I'VE
JUST HAD AN ALARM BUZZER.

BZZT!

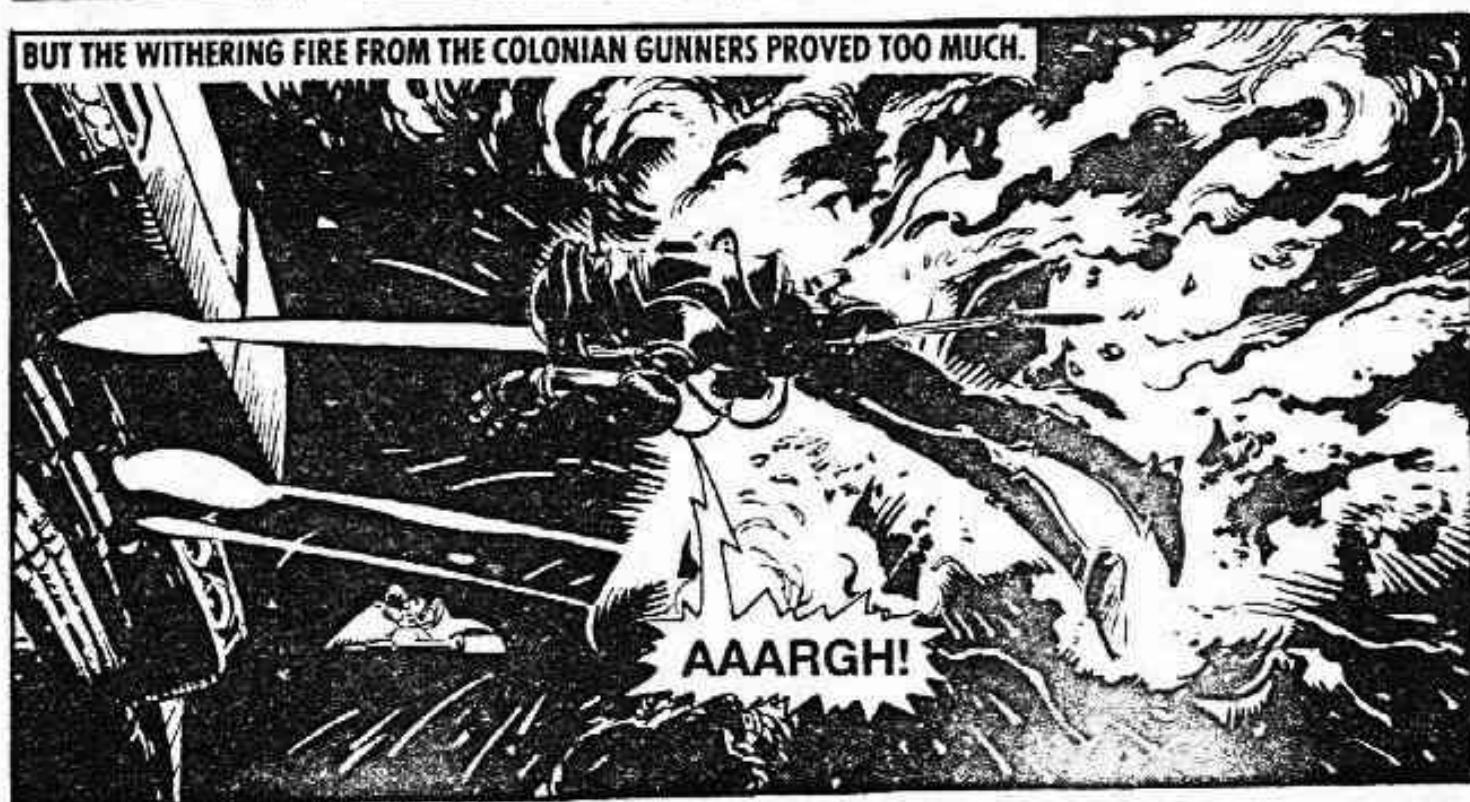
FROM ONE OF THE DORSAL GUN TURRETS, THE
OBSERVER REPORTED.

ATTENTION ... ATTACK
IMMINENT FROM SECTOR
0382 ... ONE MAN CRAFT,
NUMBER UNKNOWN ... ORIGIN
THE PLANET HOLCI.

STUNG BY THE ATTACKS ON THEIR CITIZENS, THE HOLCI HAD DECIDED TO RETALIATE.

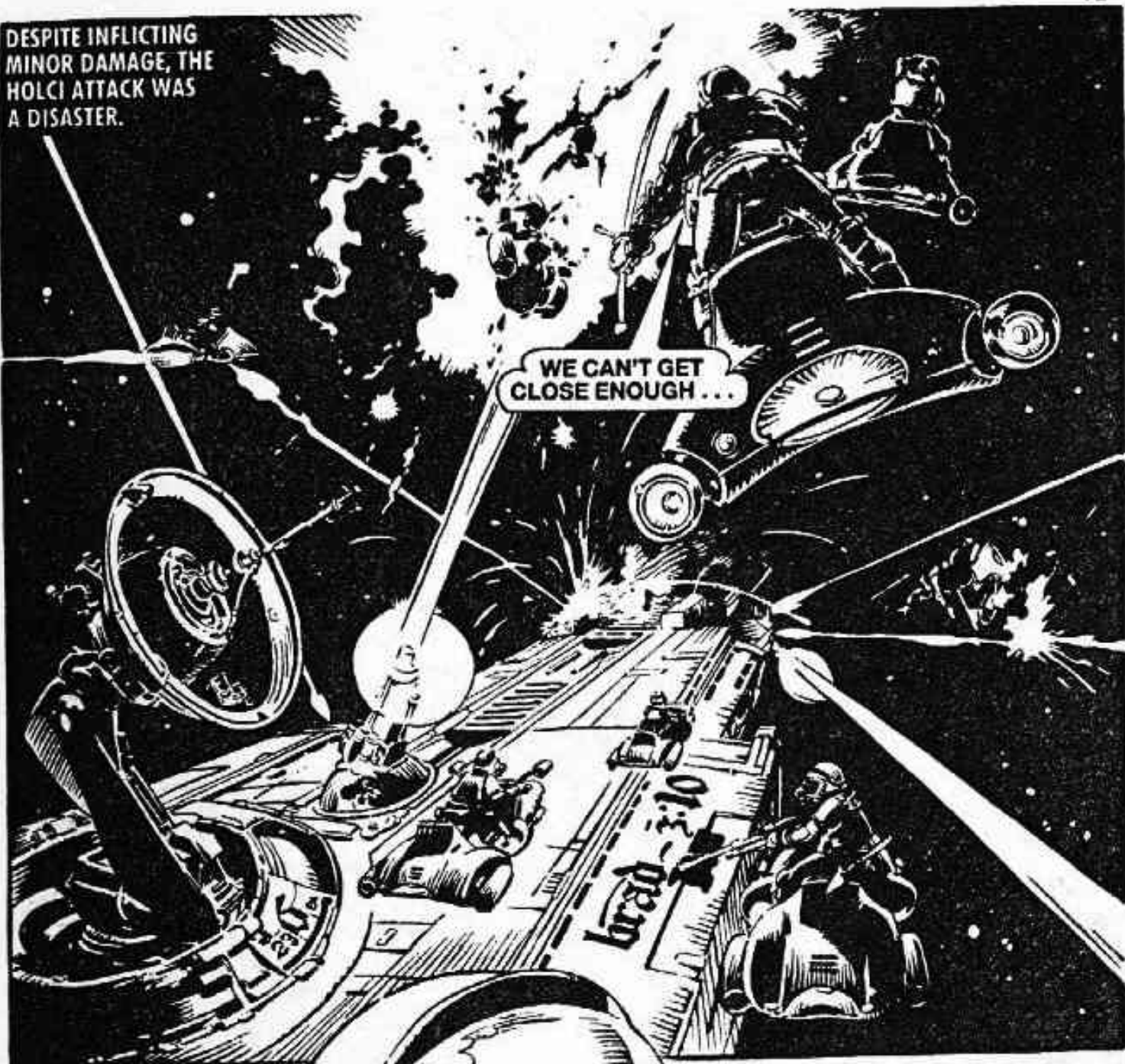


BUT THE WITHERING FIRE FROM THE COLONIAN GUNNERS PROVED TOO MUCH.



DESPITE INFLECTING
MINOR DAMAGE, THE
HOLCI ATTACK WAS
A DISASTER.

WE CAN'T GET
CLOSE ENOUGH...



... WITHDRAW! WITHDRAW!

NEWTON REPORTED THE INCIDENT.

... AND THERE WAS
LITTLE DAMAGE.

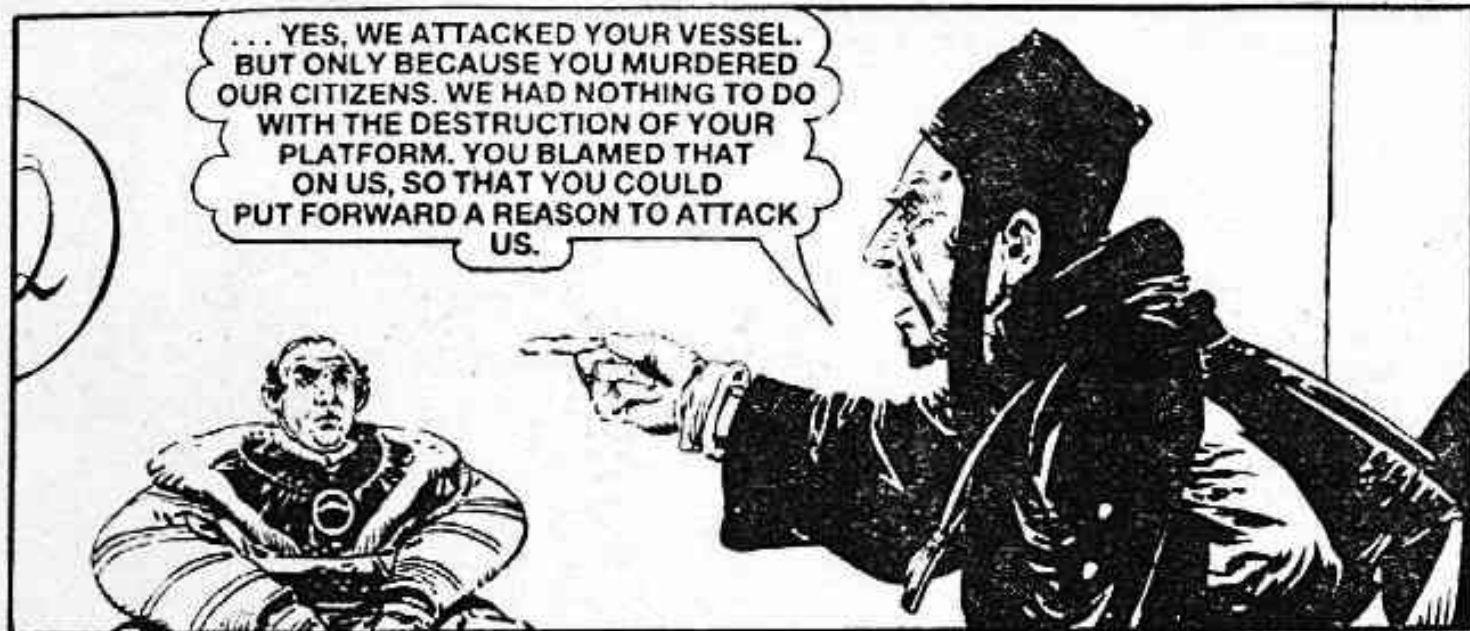
DO NOT
PURSUE ... NEGOTIATIONS
ARE DUE TO TAKE PLACE.
REPEAT ... NO FURTHER
ACTION.

THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE
CONDUCTED IN A HOLOGRAM
CHAMBER ON COLONIA BETWEEN
THE GOVERNOR OF COLONIA,
AND THE RULERS OF HOLCI AND
MONTA.

MONTA


YOU CONSPIRED TO
DESTROY OUR
PLATFORM AND
ATTACK OUR DEEP
SPACE VESSEL ...

COLONIA




THE COLONIA REPRESENTATIVE EXCUSED HIMSELF TO
DISCUSS THE ALLEGATIONS.





FOR YEARS COLONIA HAS
EXPLOITED OUR
PLANETS... NOW IS THE TIME
FOR REVENGE.

TAKEN ABACK BY THE ALLEGATIONS, THE MILITARY
CHIEFS OF COLONIA ARGUED...



IT WAS SABOTAGE... WE
MUST GO TO WAR.

BUT WHAT IF HOLCI AND
MONTA REALLY WEREN'T
INVOLVED? WE WOULD
DESTROY TWO PLANETS
BECAUSE OF OUR MISTAKE.

AS THE COLONIANS DISCUSSED, THE
COMBINED FORCES OF HOLCI AND MONTA
BEGAN THEIR ATTACK.

THE TIME HAS COME . . . ATTACK THE
COLONIAN CURS!



IN A HOLIDAY RESORT ON COLONIA, A CHILD SAW THE
SWARM OF CRAFT IN THE SKY.



DADDY . . . WHAT'S
THAT UP THERE?

BUT DADDY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO ANSWER BEFORE DEATH RAINED DOWN.

THWUMP!

THE CRAFT SWEEP OVER
TOWNS AND VILLAGES...

SEE THEM BURN!

... OBLITERATING ALL LIFE.

BEFORE THE COLONIAN MILITARY COUNCIL COULD TAKE ACTION, THE DEATH FLEET HAD REACHED THE HOLY CITY OF THERMON ...

ANNIHILATE THEIR PAGAN TEMPLES.



THE ANCIENT AND BEAUTIFUL CITY OF KUB ANSAR WAS FIRED ...

... AND ALL INTERVENING COUNTRYSIDE LAID WASTE.



COLONIA'S DISORGANISED FORCES STRUGGLED TO CONTAIN THE ATTACK.



THE ORDER WAS GIVEN —

**ALL PILOTS TO THEIR SHIPS!
ATTACK ENEMY TARGETS AT WILL.**



**NEWTON WAS CO-ORDINATING THE ATTACK ON THE
RAMPAGING ALIEN FLEET.**



KAL-ADRIK AND LI-TENU WERE COLONIAN TOWNS JUST OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL. WHEN THE HOLCI AND MONTA CRAFT ATTACKED —



AND IN THE AIR, COLONIA'S ACE PILOTS WERE GAINING THE UPPER HAND —



THE SUPERIOR COLONIAN CRAFT INFLICTED TERRIBLE CASUALTIES.



BUT ON THE GROUND, COLONIAN GENERALS WANTED TOTAL ANNIHILATION.

SLAUGHTER THE DECEITFUL DOGS ...
LAUNCH THE SADIST MISSILES.



SADIST MISSILES WERE HORRIFIC WEAPONS THAT, ONCE LAUNCHED, NEVER MISSED. THE INITIALS SENT A CHILL THROUGH PILOTS ... THEY STOOD FOR SEARCH AND DESTROY ION-SEEKING TRACKING MISSILES.

FROM ALL OVER COLONIA, SADIST MISSILES LANDED TOWARDS THEIR TARGETS...



ONCE THE MOTHER MISSILE HAD LOCATED A TARGET, IT RELEASED ITS DEADLY CARGO OF WAR-HEADS WHICH LOCKED ON TO THE ION-EMISSIONS OF THE RETREATING SPACECRAFT.



THERE WAS NO ESCAPE.

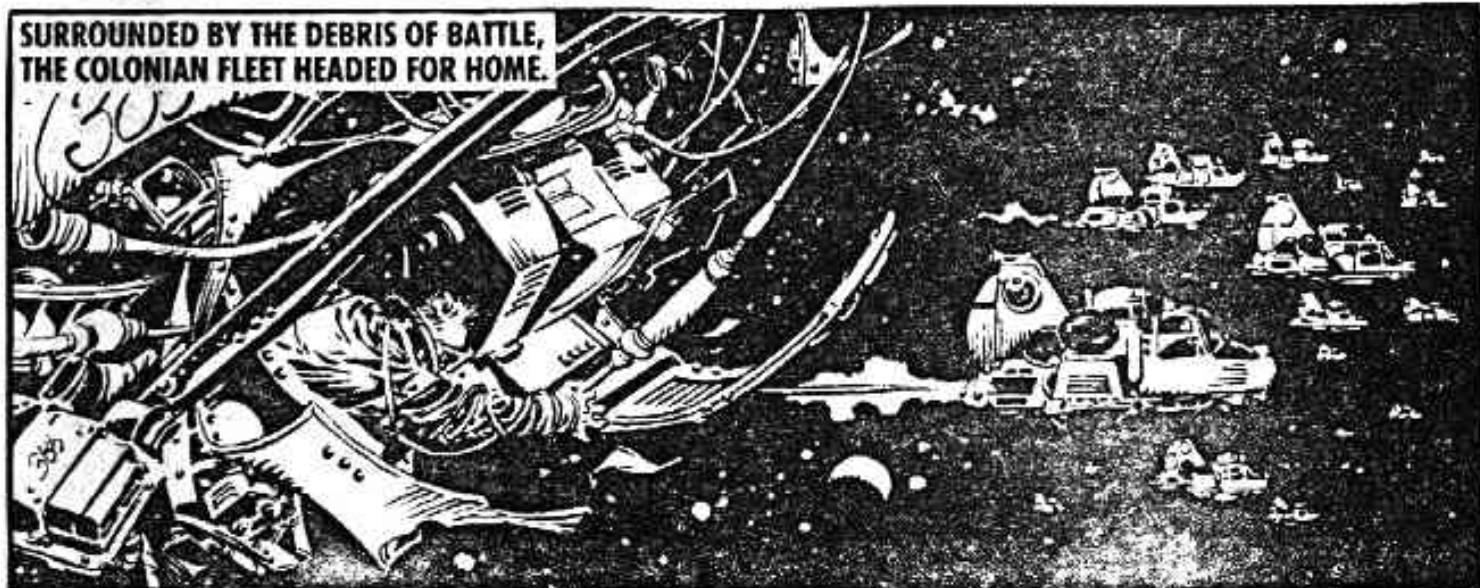


JOHN NEWTON, APPALLED AT THE SLAUGHTER,
REPORTED TOTAL VICTORY.

WE'VE WON! WE SHOWED THOSE
SCUM!



SURROUNDED BY THE DEBRIS OF BATTLE,
THE COLONIAN FLEET HEADED FOR HOME.



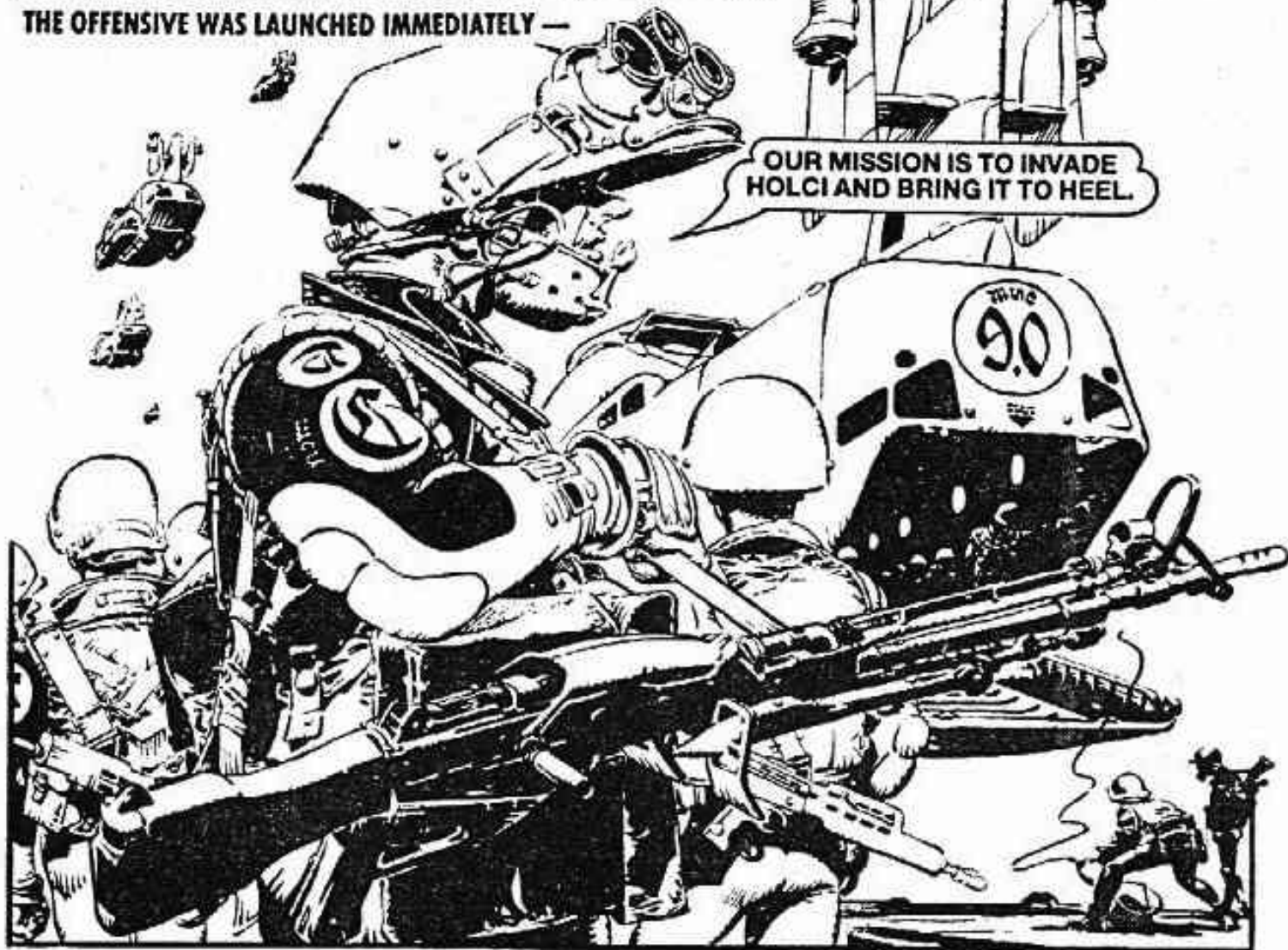
ANXIOUS TO PUSH HOME THEIR ADVANTAGE, THE COLONIANS PLANNED AN IMMEDIATE ATTACK ON HOLCI AND MONTA.

IF WE STRIKE NOW, WE WILL FINISH THEM FOREVER.

YES... IT WILL BE GOOD TO RID OURSELVES OF THESE TIRESOME ALIENS.

THE OFFENSIVE WAS LAUNCHED IMMEDIATELY —

OUR MISSION IS TO INVADE HOLCI AND BRING IT TO HEEL.



STRANGELY, THE TWO ARCH-PLOTTERS OF HOLCI AND MONTA WERE OVERJOYED.

NOW WE HAVE THEM — THEY ARE TO ATTACK US ON OUR OWN GROUND.



THE SACRIFICE OF OUR FLEET HAS FINALLY LURED THE ACCURSED COLONIA TO OUR PLANET, WHERE THEY SHALL SEE NOTHING BUT SWAMPS, MOSQUITOS AND THEIR OWN BLOOD.

TWO WEEKS LATER, THE BEWILDERED COLONIAN ARMY WAS STILL LOOKING FOR THE INVISIBLE ENEMY.

WE'VE SPENT DAYS IN THIS STINKING SWAMP WITHOUT SEEING A SIGN OF THE ENEMY. WHERE ARE THEY?



SOMEWHERE! THEY GOT TWO OF US LAST NIGHT.

"THEY" WERE VERY CLOSE.
"THEY" WERE THE SYNNS,
FIERCE SWAMP DWELLERS,
MOUNTED ON FLESH-
EATING REPTILES.

SHUSH, MOUNT! SOON YOU
WILL HAVE FLESH.

WITH BLOOD-CURDLING
SCREAMS, THE SYNNS
RAINED DOWN ON THE
UNSUSPECTING TROOP.


YIIIIIEE!

IT'S LIKE A
NIGHTMARE.



SCARED ALMOST WITLESS, A COLONIAN SOLDIER MANAGED TO RADIO FOR HELP.

HELP, PLEASE HELP... POSITION
28K... HELP?



THE FRANTIC PLEADING WAS PICKED UP
BY A PATROLLING GUNSHIP.

... 28K... HELP!



OKAY, SKY JOCKEY... GET THIS
CRATE DOWN AS CLOSE TO THE
GROUND AS YOU CAN.

SURE THING,
GOOD BUDDY!

THE TROOP WAS DECIMATED, AND PANIC-STRICKEN SOLDIERS FIRED AT ANYTHING THAT MOVED. CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE WAS JOHN NEWTON.

THAT BUSH MOVED ... SHOUT ... WATCH
THAT SHADOW ...



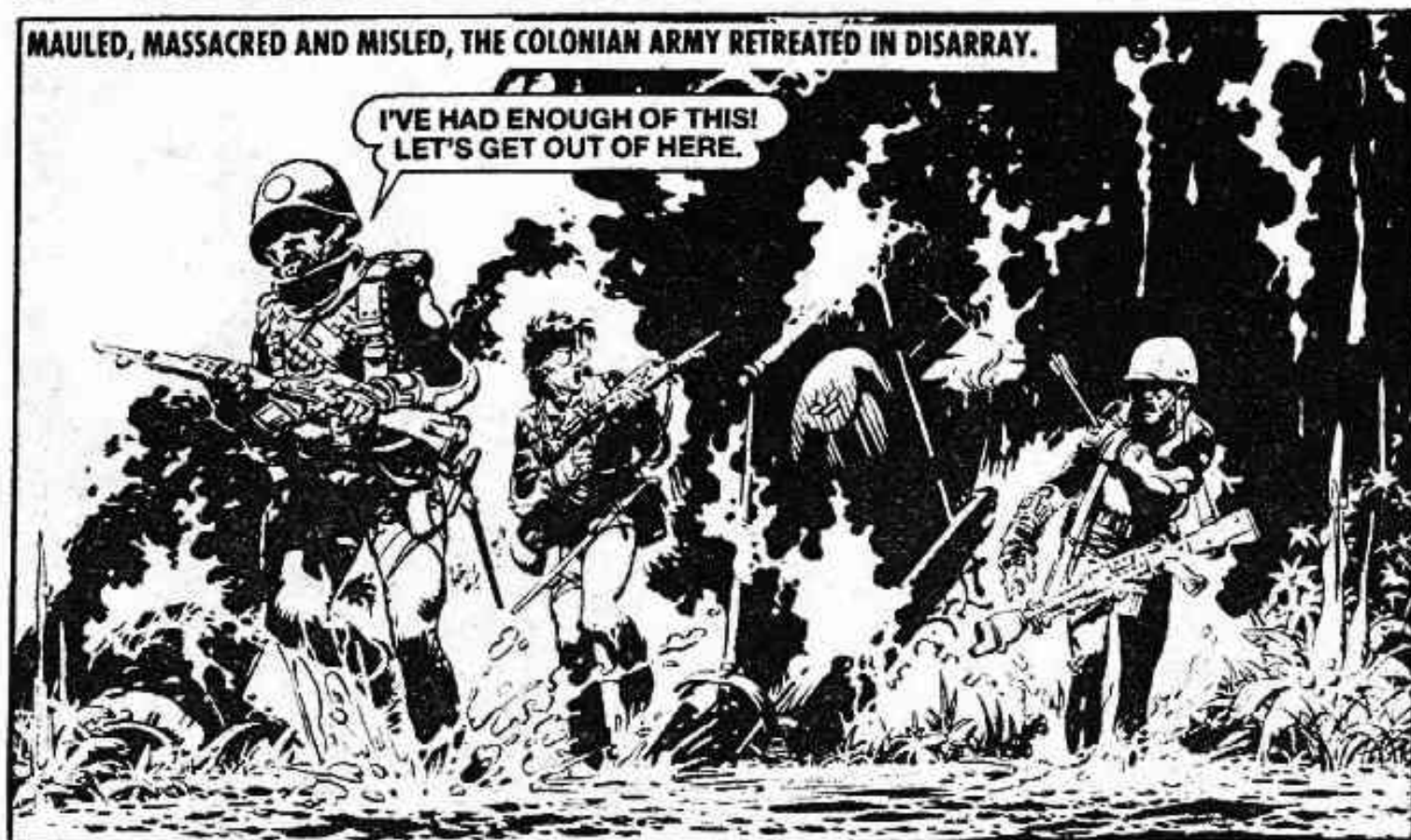
THE GUNSHIP ARRIVED, SPEWING DEATH.



**BUT DUMMIES AT TARGET PRACTICE
DIDN'T HAVE GROUND-TO-AIR MISSILES.**



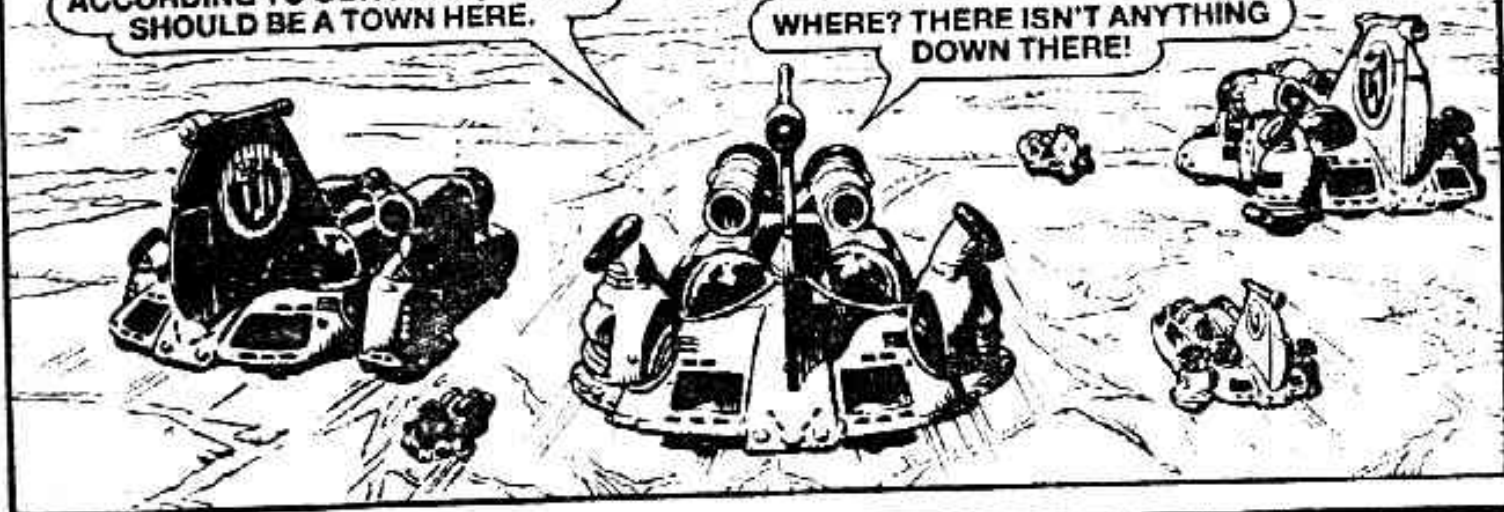
MAULED, MASSACRED AND MISLED, THE COLONIAN ARMY RETREATED IN DISARRAY.



SAVAGE RAIDS ON CIVILIAN TARGETS WERE ORDERED BY THE HUMILIATED COLONIAN GENERALS.

ACCORDING TO OUR MAPS, THERE SHOULD BE A TOWN HERE.

WHERE? THERE ISN'T ANYTHING DOWN THERE!



NOTHING BUT FORESTS AND SWAMPS!



BUT THERE WERE TOWNS —
HIDDEN BY HOLOGRAMS, MIRRORS AND
ELECTRONIC CAMOUFLAGE THAT OBSCURED TARGETS.

THIS IS SCARY ... I SAY WE
GET OUT ... QUICK!



THE ARMY OF COLONIA HAD TO WITHDRAW AFTER ACHIEVING NOTHING.

THERE GO THE LAST OF THE
OPPRESSORS ... WE ARE FREE.



THE INVISIBLE ARMY APPEARED AS THE COLONIAN CRAFT LEFT.

WE HAVE INFLICTED A DREADFUL
DEFEAT ON COLONIA ... NOW
PERHAPS THEY WILL LEAVE US IN
PEACE.



BUT FOR MONTHS, THE GOVERNOR OF COLONIA PLANNED REVENGE—

SO THE PLATFORM IS ALMOST READY... AND WE SHALL LAUNCH AN ATTACK FIRST ON THE SCUM OF HOLCI.

BUT IT'S MADNESS. IT SHALL END AS THE LAST ATTACK DID.

EXCUSE ME, SIR! A STRANGE GENTLEMAN WISHES TO SEE YOU... HE SAYS HE CAN WIPE OUT THE HOLCI.

INTRIGUED, THE GOVERNOR GRANTED "THE STRANGE GENTLEMAN" AN AUDIENCE.

I AM PROFESSOR FRASHER, DEVELOPER OF THE HIGH INTENSITY PARTICLE BEAMER. WITH ONE BEAM. WOOF... NO MORE ENEMY! HA... HA!



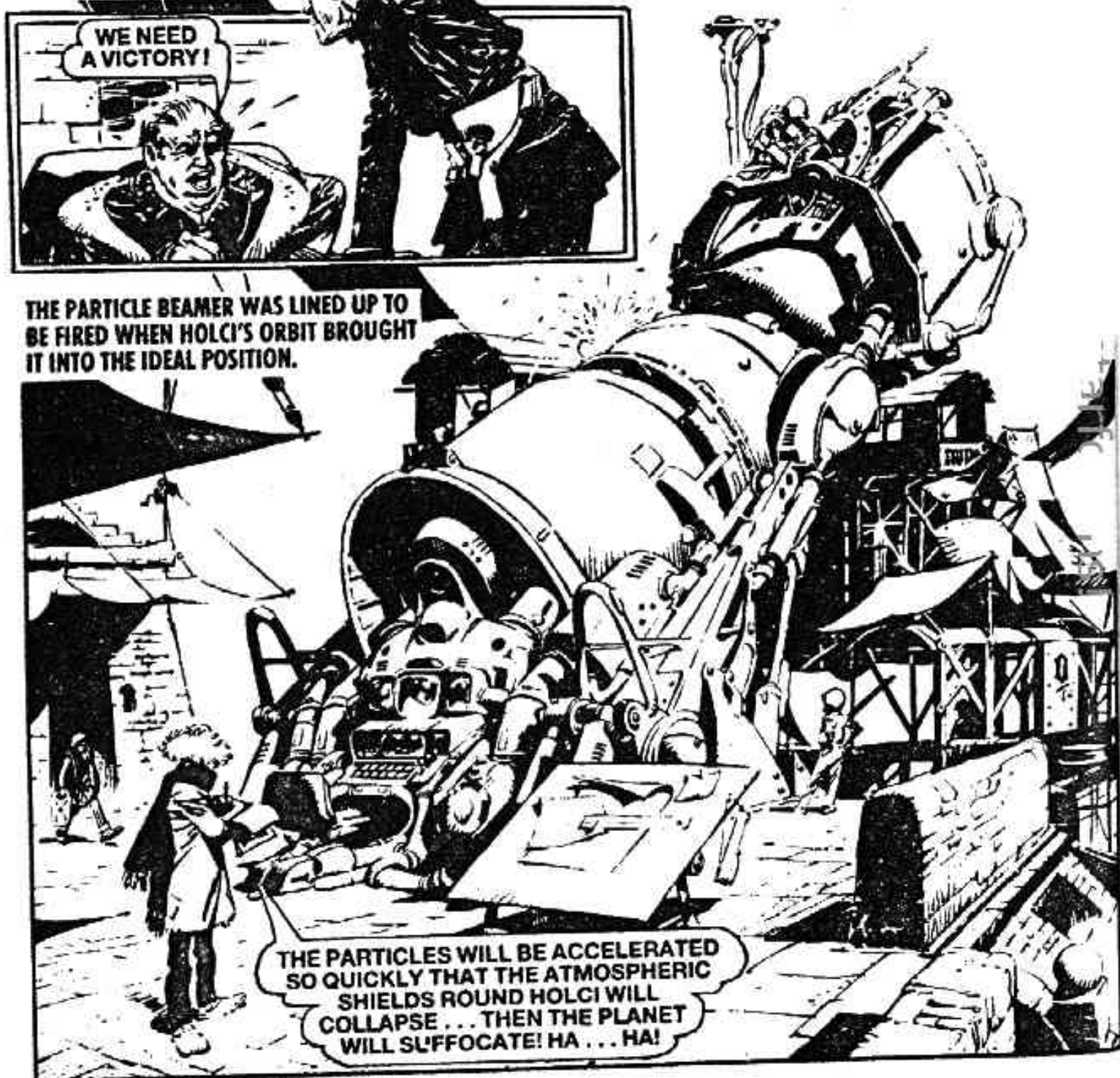
DESPERATION CLOUDED THE GOVERNOR'S JUDGMENT, AND HE ORDERED THE PROFESSOR TO USE HIS BEAMER, DESPITE WARNINGS ABOUT SIDE-EFFECTS.

BUT, SIR, THE USE OF THE BEAMER WILL ALTER THE GRAVITATIONAL FORCES — WE'LL BE IN DANGER TOO!

WE NEED A VICTORY!

THE PARTICLE BEAMER WAS LINED UP TO BE FIRED WHEN HOLCI'S ORBIT BROUGHT IT INTO THE IDEAL POSITION.

THE PARTICLES WILL BE ACCELERATED SO QUICKLY THAT THE ATMOSPHERIC SHIELDS ROUND HOLCI WILL COLLAPSE... THEN THE PLANET WILL SUFFOCATE! HA... HA!



PATIENTLY THE CRAZY PROFESSOR FRASCHER WAITED—

MR GOVERNOR . . . HOLCI WILL BE
IN LINE SOON . . . JUST LOOK UP IN
THE SKY.



THE BEAM LANCED OUT, EERILY-LIGHTING UP THE SILENT CITY BELOW.



ON COLONIA, MILLIONS
OF EYES SAW THE BEAM
STRIKE . . .



HOLCI FLARED IN WHITE
HEAT, THEN
DISINTEGRATED.



AND MONTA FELT THE BLAST.

OH, LORD . . . HOLCI HAS GONE.
THEY HAVE DESTROYED HOLCI.
WE ARE DOOMED.



WITH THE STABILISING INFLUENCE OF HOLCI GONE, STORMS LASHED MONTA.



EARTHQUAKES, STORMS AND TIDAL WAVES
TURNED MONTA INTO A DESOLATE, RUINED
WORLD.



ON COLONIA, THE GOVERNOR HAD VENTURED OUT TO WITNESS HIS TRIUMPH, OBVIOUS TO THE STORMS ALSO CAUSED BY HIS MONSTROUS ACT.

WHAT A SIGHT! HOLCI IS FINISHED, AND MONTA A RUIN... I AM AVENGED.

BUT EVEN IN VICTORY, ABSOLUTE TRIUMPH WAS SNATCHED AWAY AS A STREAK OF LIGHTNING STRUCK HIM DOWN.

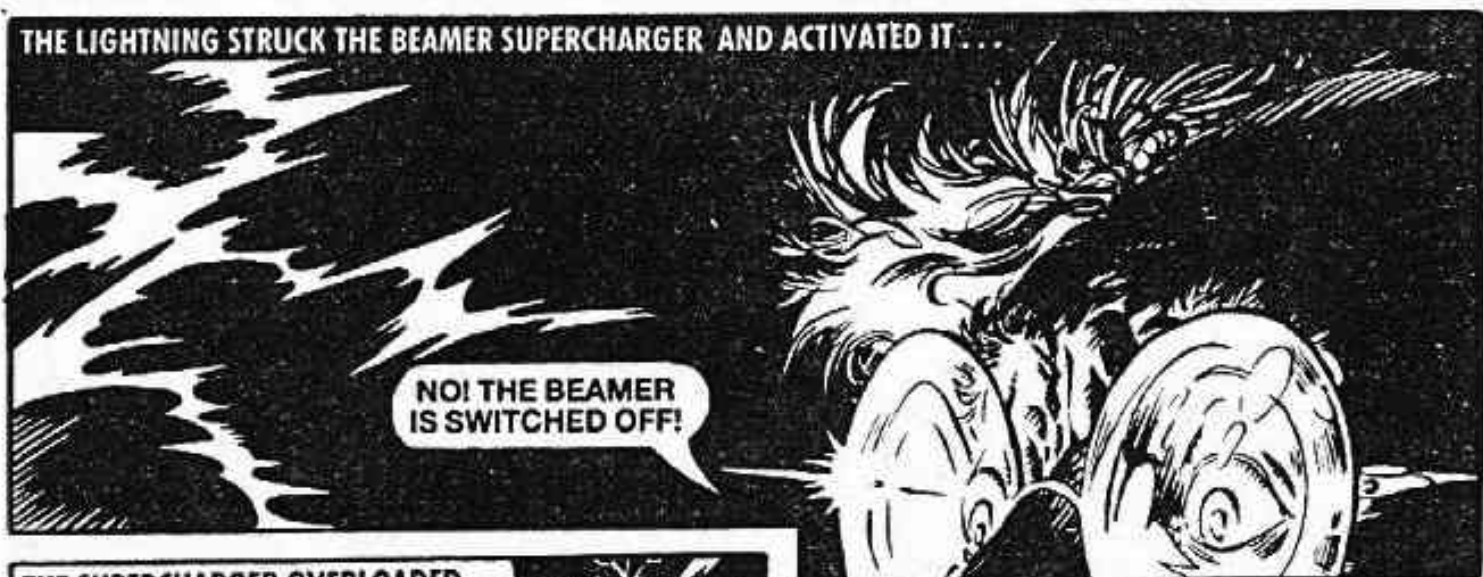
AARRGGH!



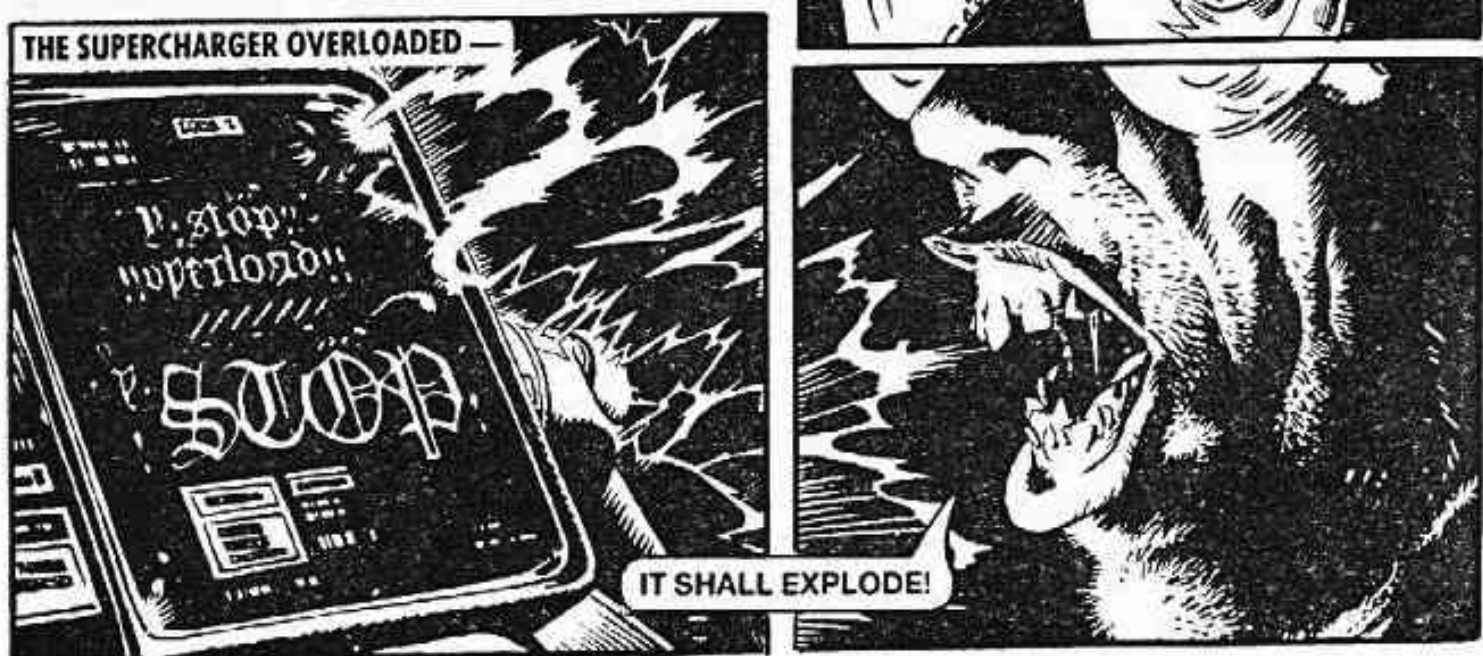
THE STORM LASHED COLONIA, AND PROFESSOR FRASCHER'S PARTICLE BEAMER DID NOT ESCAPE—



THE LIGHTNING STRUCK THE BEAMER SUPERCHARGER AND ACTIVATED IT...



THE SUPERCHARGER OVERLOADED —



THE SCIENTIST AND HIS WEAPON DISSOLVED
IN A BALL OF FIRE.

WHOP!

THE GENERALS WERE UNCONCERNED BY THE TWO
DEATHS, AND THEY PLANNED.

WE HAVE DEFEATED HOLCI AND
MONTA ... AND FOR ONCE WE CAN
CELEBRATE THE EMPEROR'S
BIRTHDAY WITH NO FEAR OF
SABOTAGE.



AND SD. 1309 SAW THE PEOPLE OF COLONIA CELEBRATE THE EMPEROR'S BIRTHDAY WITH THE LAUNCH OF A SPACE HOLIDAY CENTRE.



IN SPACE, FINISHING TOUCHES WERE BEING PUT TO THE STRANGE HOLIDAY CENTRE...

ALL SYSTEMS GO...
LINK WITH PLATFORM.



JOHN NEWTON'S JOB WAS FINISHED, SO HE ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT AN OLD FRIEND.



ALARMING! THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS I WANTED YOU TO COME. LOOK THROUGH THE TELESCOPE.

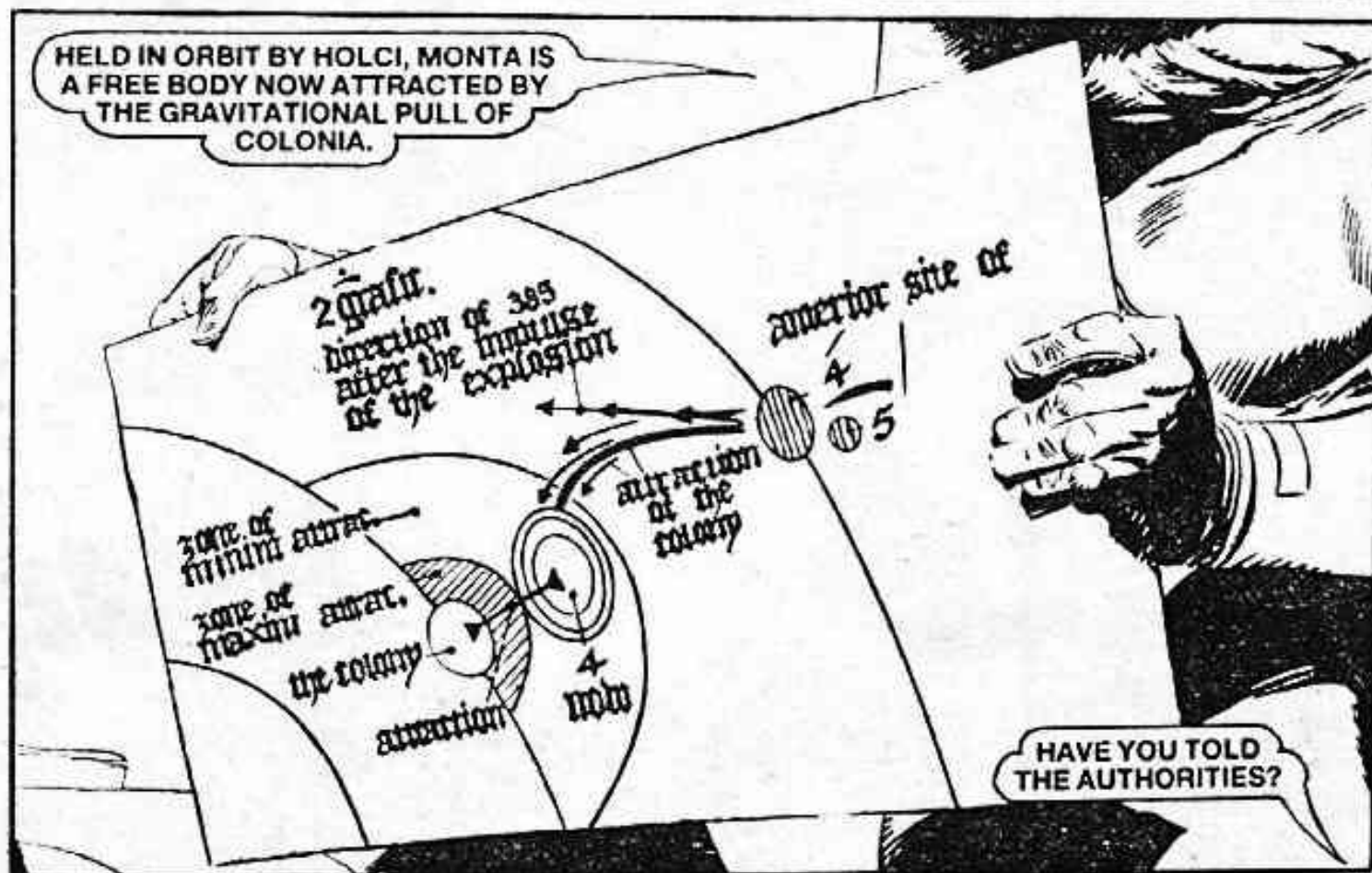
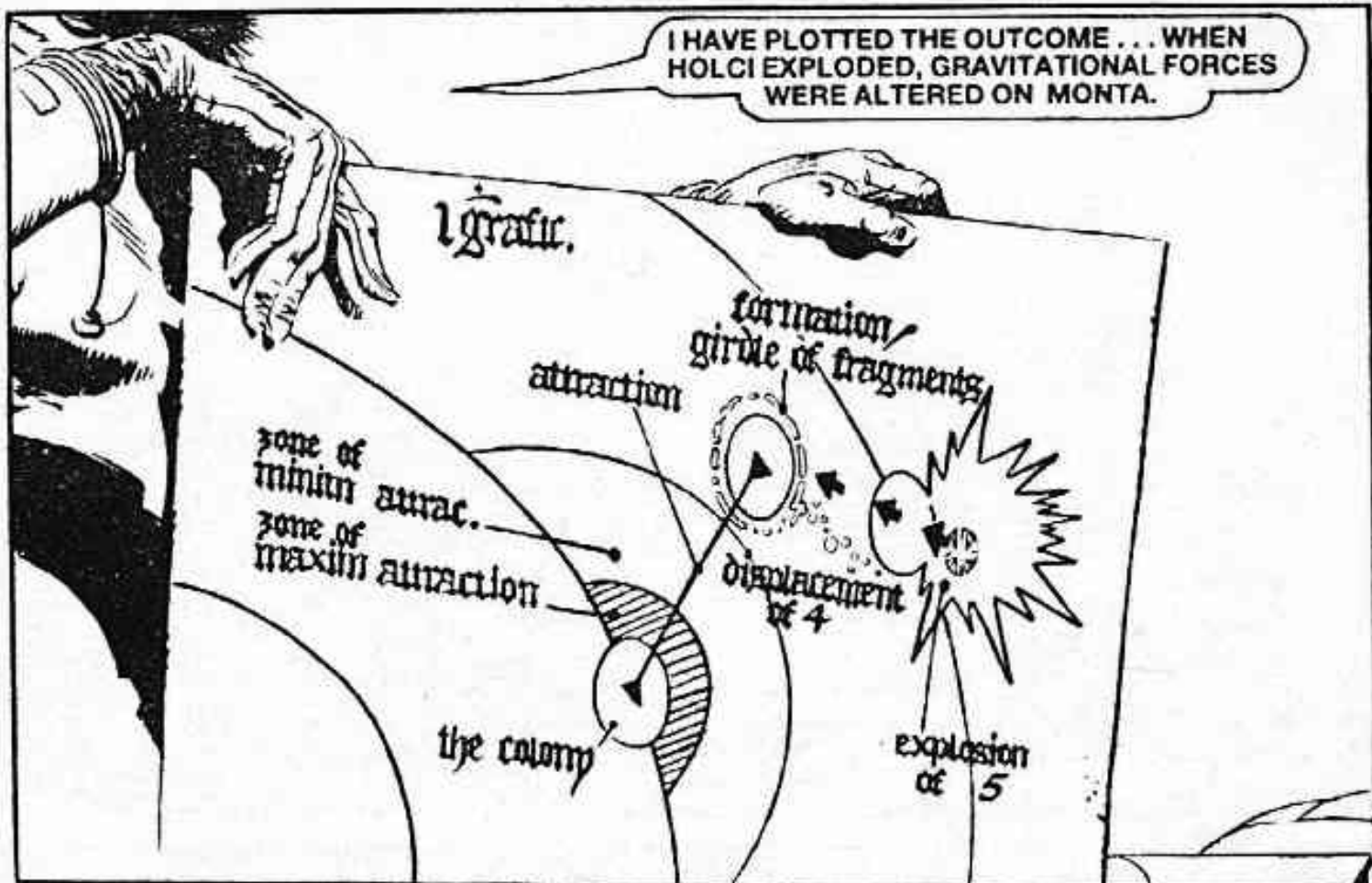


LUIS EXPLAINED AS JOHN LOOKED
THROUGH THE TELESCOPE.

THAT IS MONTA . . . AND THE
SITUATION IS EVEN WORSE THAN
IT LOOKS. REDUCE THE
MAGNIFICATION.

NOW YOU SEE THE WHOLE OF
MONTA . . . PIECES ARE
BREAKING OFF! THOSE PIECES,
JOHN, ARE HEADING FOR
COLONIA!






TWO SHADOWY FIGURES WATCHED —



YES! BUT THEY DISMISSED ME AS A
CRANK. YOU HAVE INFLUENCE...

SO IT'S TRUE WHAT THE GENERALS
SAID ... HE SPREADS STORIES TO
FRIGHTEN THE PEOPLE.



JOHN ... YOU
MUST HELP!

WHAT CAN I DO?

THE TWO SHADOWY FIGURES LEAPT UP —

KILL THEM!



WE MUST DO
OUR BIDDING!



YOU WILL SPREAD
NO MORE TALES!

WHAT GOES
ON HERE?

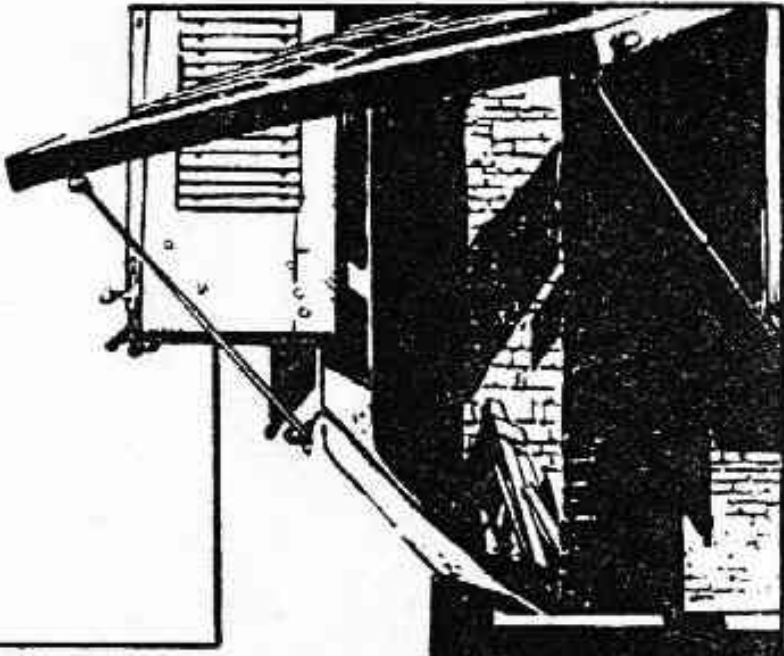


JOHN STRUGGLED TO UNSHEATH HIS
SMALL DRESS SWORD—




... AND THRUST HIS SWORD AT
THE KILLER.





I'M SORRY, LUIS. I'LL
MAKE SURE THAT YOUR
WARNING IS PASSED
ON.




EVEN AS JOHN HEADED TOWARDS THE
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, THE BULK OF MONTA
LOOMED CLOSER.



I MUST HURRY!

JOHN MANAGED TO GET AN AUDIENCE WITH THE GOVERNOR.

SIR, THE WARNING YOU
RECEIVED FROM LUIS MUST
BE HEEDED. WE MUST
EVACUATE BEFORE IT IS TOO
LATE.



IT WON'T BE TOO LATE IF THEY
ARE NOT TOLD. THERE ARE NOT
ENOUGH CRAFT TO TAKE
EVERYBODY OFF!

JOHN'S ANGER EXPLODED—

THEY WILL
BE TOLD!

HE FLED TO THE NEARBY TELEVISION STATION, AND
BLUFFED HIS WAY IN—

CHANNELS, 1, 2, 3 AND 4, RADIO,
HOLOGRAPH STATION ON
AIR... NOW. ATTENTION,
ATTENTION...



JOHN RELAYED HIS DEADLY
MESSAGE THROUGHOUT
COLONIA.

... SO YOU MUST
EVACUATE!

FRAGMENTS OF
THE
DISINTEGRATING
MONTA RAINED
DOWN.

PEOPLE PANICKED.

WHAT DO I DO?
HELP! OH, LORD,
HELP!

SOME PEOPLE DIDN'T BELIEVE THE MESSAGE.

IT'S A HOAX! THEY WANT US TO
PANIC AND FLEE SO THEY CAN
ROB OUR EMPTY HOMES.

WHO ARE
THEY?



JOHN WAS TRYING TO REACH THE SPACEPORT.

NO ENTRY, SON
... GO AWAY.

BUT I MUST GET
IN ... OH, WHAT'S
THE USE!

SO HE TURNED DOWN THE BACK ALLEYS TO SEEK ANOTHER WAY IN. . .

. . . BACK ALLEYS WHERE PSYCHOPATHIC KILLERS LURKED.

HO ... STRANGER!
YOUR BLOOD
SHALL WASH MY
SWORD.

JOHN DIDN'T ASK QUESTIONS.

DON'T BOTHER ME!



THREE OF THE GOVERNOR'S GUARD APPEARED.

IT'S NEWTON
— STOP!



BUT HE ESCAPED AS FRAGMENTS OF MONTA SMASHED INTO A WALL NEARBY.

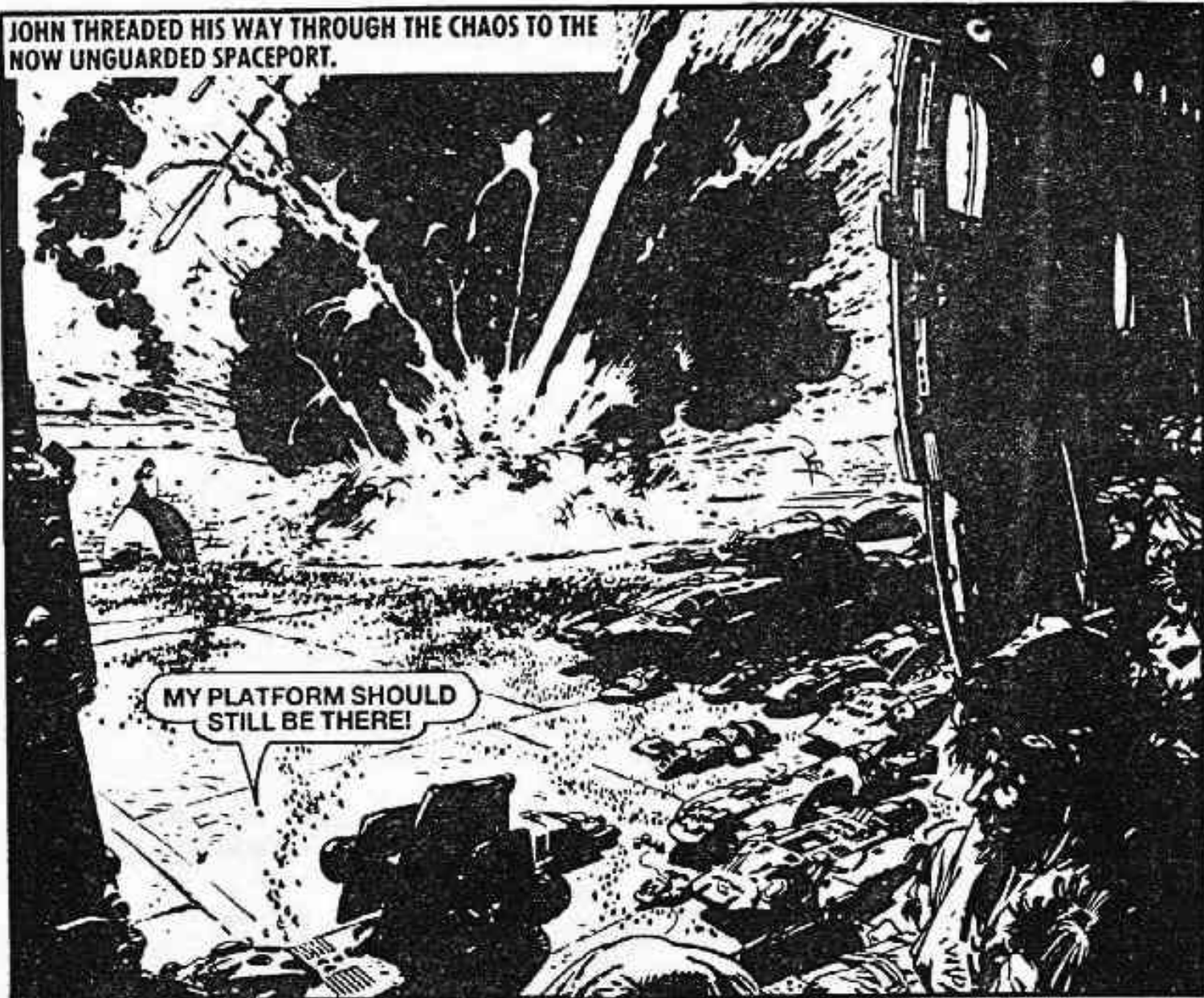


IN THE PANIC, CIVIL WAR HAD BROKEN OUT.



CHAOS... MURDER...
BROTHER FIGHTS
BROTHER. ALL THIS
CAUSED BY A DESIRE FOR
REVENGE.

JOHN THREADED HIS WAY THROUGH THE CHAOS TO THE NOW UNGUARDED SPACEPORT.



IT WAS, AND ONCE ON BOARD —

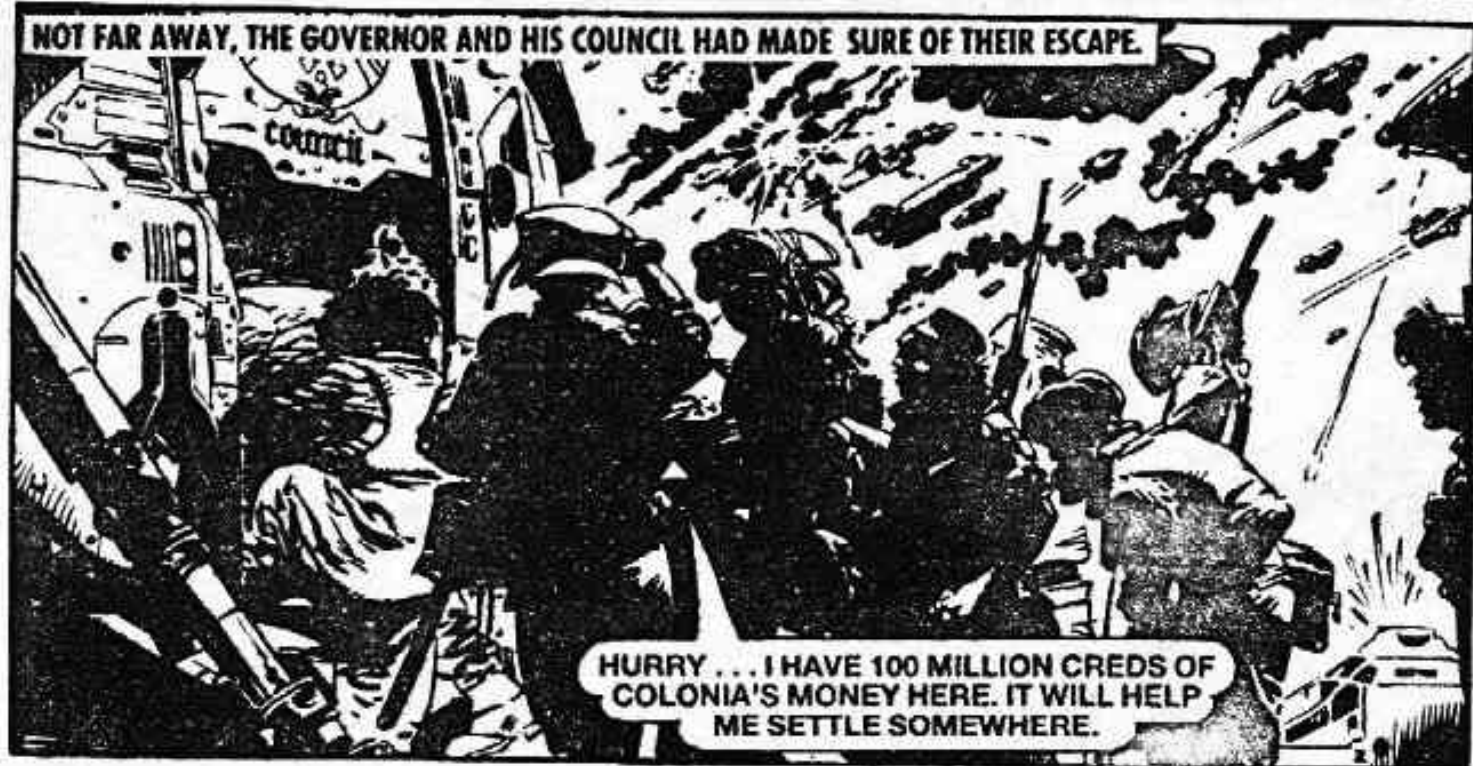


JOHN WAITED ... AND WONDERED —



HOW MANY OF US WILL ESCAPE?
THOSE LEFT WILL DIE ... WHAT
RIGHT HAVE I TO PLAY GOD?

NOT FAR AWAY, THE GOVERNOR AND HIS COUNCIL HAD MADE SURE OF THEIR ESCAPE.

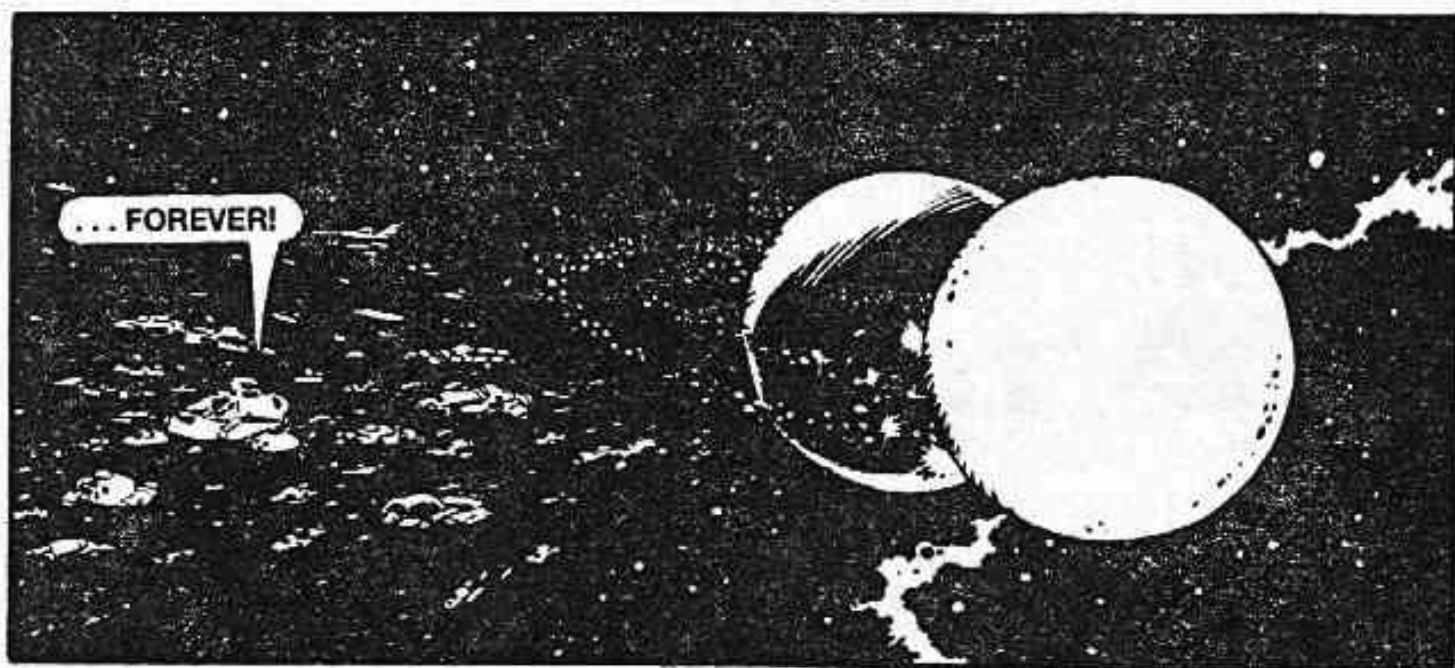


HURRY ... I HAVE 100 MILLION CREDS OF
COLONIA'S MONEY HERE. IT WILL HELP
ME SETTLE SOMEWHERE.

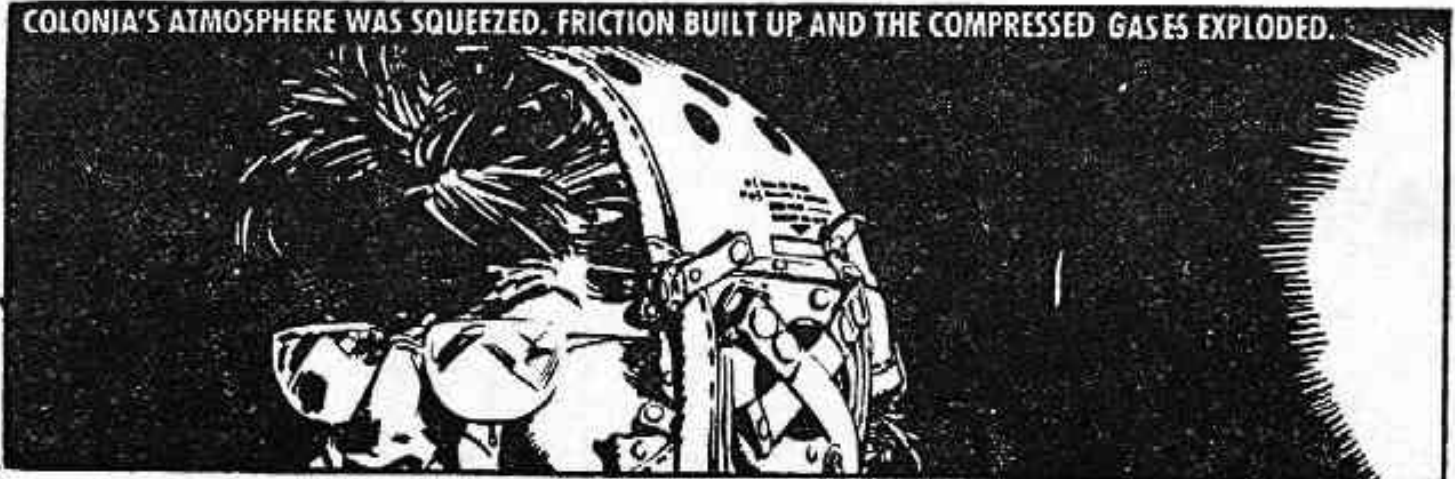
WHILE THE SHIPS WERE LIFTING OFF, THE
PEOPLE OF COLONIA WERE DYING.



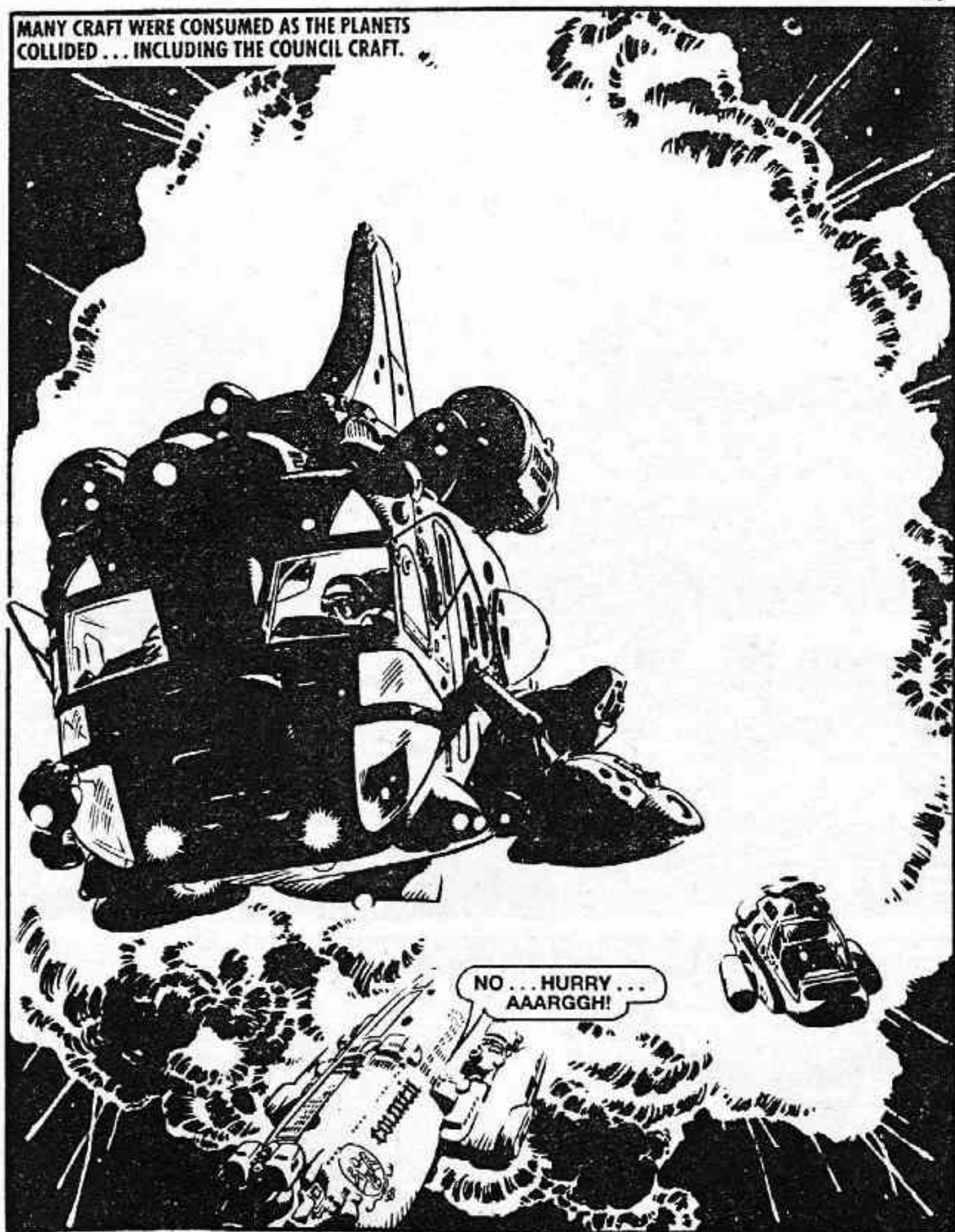
JOHN'S SHIP LIFTED AWAY AS MONTA MOVED TO WITHIN A FEW THOUSAND MILES OF COLONIA.



COLONIA'S ATMOSPHERE WAS SQUEEZED. FRICTION BUILT UP AND THE COMPRESSED GASES EXPLODED.



MANY CRAFT WERE CONSUMED AS THE PLANETS
COLLIDED ... INCLUDING THE COUNCIL CRAFT.



FEW CRAFT SURVIVED THE
CATAclysmic EXPLOSION. THOSE WHO
REACHED AN UNINHABITED
PLANET ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE
GALAXY. MANY YEARS LATER
STORIES AND CHARTS TOLD OF
COLONIA'S TERRIBLE
REVENGE...



... AND OF THE LAUGHING FACE OF THE HOLIDAY CENTRE THAT MOCKED COLONIA'S FOLLY. NOT REVENGE, BUT SELF-DESTRUCTION.



BUT NOBODY BELIEVED THE TALES. JUST A FAIRY TALE, A LEGEND ... NOT TRUE, THEY SAID.

THE YEAR WAS 70, OR 1379 AS CALCULATED BY THE OLD EMPEROR'S CALENDAR.



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THE INFERNAL TRIANGLE

COLONISTS LEFT PLANET EARTH DURING THE FAMINE OF AD2186 TO SEEK A NEW AND SECURE LIFE. ALL TRACK OF TIME WAS LOST AFTER YEARS IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION, BUT A NEW GALAXY WAS FOUND, ONE WITH THREE INHABITABLE PLANETS. CIVILISATION WAS ESTABLISHED, AND THE LARGEST PLANET, COLONIA, GRADUALLY EXERTED CONTROL OVER THE OTHER TWO, HOLCI AND MONTA. TOGETHER THEY FORMED A THREE-SIDED ALLIANCE WHICH BECAME AN INFERNAL TRIANGLE.

